

SHERMAN.

Extensive Conflagrations in Savannah.

An Attempt to Destroy the City by Fire and Explosion.

PARTIAL SUCCESS OF THE INCENDIARY.

More of Sherman's Army Landed at Beaufort, S. C.

Proceedings of Northern Aid Committees.

The Gunboat Dai Ching Destroyed by the Rebels.

The United States steam transport, *Savo Nava*, James B. Hildon Head Jan. 29, reached this port yesterday. Former Lewis P. Thomas will accept our thanks for having appeared in person at the headquarters of the Savannah Union League, for forwarding despatches to the *Savo Nava*.

Incendiary Conflagrations at Savannah.

On the evening of the 27th, a disaster occurred in Savannah, destroying considerable property, but without loss of life, and on the morning of the 28th another disaster, destroying the squares in the Third district. Several buildings were burned down to prevent the spreading of the flames, as the wind was blowing strong from the east.

At 12:30 P. M., Depot Ordnance Officer, reports that some kind had placed a keg of powder at the side of the arsenal, at the corner of York and Walker streets, and that it was blowing up the city, as it contained over thirty tons of powder. The keg was placed in the shadow of a tree to avoid discovery, with the top taken out. A light spark would have carried off his foolish design. It was thought to be the work of the rebels, who are in any case, but an amiable man in view of their present condition.

Additional troops of Sherman's army have gone to Beaufort, S. C.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

Captain Thomas W. Middleton, Veteran reserve corps, reports that the heaviest portion of the fire occurred on Broadway and Hay on streets.

The roof of the Pulaski house caught fire, but was extinguished after considerable exertion.

One magazine exploded, but with what damage was not known at the time of his departure.

The fire was undoubtedly the work of emissaries of the rebel government.

Three lives were known to have been lost in the conflagration at the time of the departure of the vessel.

In conversation with the citizens, several citizens of Savannah on the subject of the late General Sherman, in his characteristic manner, remarked: "We wish to cultivate friendly feeling with your people; if they love me, we will not quarrel with them; but we love a strong republic and mean to maintain it."

Aid for Savannah.

MR. THOMAS'S DISPATCH.

SAVANNAH, GA., Jan. 26, 1865.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROVISIONS TO THE CITIZENS OF SAVANNAH.

The distribution of the provisions brought by the *Rebecca* is still being continued. The Daniel Webster is unloading to day, and her cargo also sent among the citizens. Things look bright and joyous here, as the weather is exceedingly fine, although the mornings are very damp and chilly.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

TO-DAY MEETING OF THE CITIZENS AT THE EXCHANGE.

To-day a meeting of the citizens was held at the Exchange, pursuant to a call of the Mayor. The object of this meeting was to give expression to the feelings of the people for the contributions of provisions from the North. The proceedings commenced at twelve o'clock. A band was stationed outside the building, which discoursed national airs during the progress of the meeting. The committee from New York and Boston were present, together with Captain Veto, of General Geary's staff, and Lieutenant Gilet, of General Grover's staff, who have co-operated in the distribution of the provisions. There was a very large attendance, and the affair passed off with genuine enthusiasm and perfect quiet. There were not three or four of the military present, and they came in from the city, and were a citizens' meeting, and represented the most respectable members of the city.

Major Arnold presided. The Mayor presided over the meeting.

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NEW YORK HERALD, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1865.

Fort Caswell Garrisoned by Land Forces.

DESTRUCTION OF COTTON BY FIRE.

Mr. Homer Merrell's Despatch.

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On the evening of the 24th inst., Lieutenant Colonel Berney, with his regiment, the One Hundred and Forty-second New York, and a detachment of the Third New York, crossed the river in the steamer C. W. Thomas to Smithville. Here Colonel Berney, with part of his force, disembarked, and, after relieving Lieutenant Cushing, of the navy, who had the honor of capturing the town, Colonel Berney took possession. The rest of his command, under Major Jones, of the One Hundred and Forty-second New York, pushed down the river, and now occupy Fort Caswell and other fortifications in that vicinity.

LOCATION OF SMITHVILLE.

Smithville is situated on the south side of the Cape Fear river, about ten miles below Fort Fisher and two miles above the mouth and main entrance of the river. It is a place of about eight hundred inhabitants, mostly women and children. Here were found large quantities of commissary stores, tobacco, about thirty deserters (ranging in age from sixteen to sixty, who had secreted themselves on the evacuation of the town, and reported to the navy when they first arrived), and three rebel hospitals, containing about fifty sick and wounded, under the charge of Assistant Surgeon D. O. Harris. The citizens and soldiers all express themselves tired of the war.

Fort Caswell, now under command of Major Jones, is an extensive work, built on a point of land on the south side of the river and commanding the mouth of the Cape Fear. This work is built of brick, and since its occupation by the enemy has been greatly strengthened by an outer work of sand, mounting guns in casemates of railroad iron. The work mounted all about one hundred guns.

Among the number was found another specimen of British neutrality in the shape of a one hundred and thirty-five pound Armstrong gun, the same pattern as the one found in Fort Fisher, mounted on a masonry carriage.

CONDITION IN WHICH THE REBELS LEFT THE PORT AND THE ARMA.

The guns had all been spiked and the carriage all destroyed before its evacuation by the enemy. The powder magazine was blown up, and the buildings on the inside all destroyed by fire, and in the carpenter and blacksmith shops not a tool was left. The buildings on the outside were all shot, and the carpenter and blacksmith shops not a tool was left. The buildings on the outside were all shot, and the carpenter and blacksmith shops not a tool was left.

The Naval Casualties at Fort Fisher.

UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP COLORADO.

Please publish, for the information of friends, the following list of casualties on board this ship during the attack on Fort Fisher:

Killed—Wm. A. Goodrich, landsman.

Wounded—John Ledy, ordinary seaman, arm broken.

Do, Richard W. Laidman, head, recovered.

Do, Corbett, landsman, head, recovered.

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The steamer *Columbia*, Captain D. B. Barton, from Havana January 28, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon. The news is unimportant.

OUR HAVANA CORRESPONDENCE.

HAVANA, Jan. 28, 1865.

Prevalence of Cold Weather—Receipts of the *Charitable Bazaar*—Pressing Want of a Hospital in Havana—One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars Beyond—The *Rebecca*—New Aqueduct for the City, &c., &c.

The Spanish mail steamer *Vera Cruz* is due to-day, but up to the moment of writing has not made her appearance. If the consignees of the *Columbia*, which leaves to-day, had been so obliging as to detain her till later in the day than twelve o'clock I might possibly have been able to send you some Mexican news which will be sure to arrive when the mail shall have closed.

The weather conditions remarkably cool and pleasant, and not at all Cuba-like. For instance, the thermometer went down last night to below sixty, which is a rare circumstance here. Towards dawn this morning it must have been about fifty. In spite of the unusual cold, the past three nights amounted to no less than 16,575.40, with a prospect of a much larger daily result when the weather moderates a few days, after all, our delicate beauties do not like to face the dripping rain.

While on the subject of charities, I am reminded of the want of a hospital in this city. Some time ago the Spanish mail steamer *Vera Cruz* was in port, and a catastrophe might abruptly finish what the doctors had scientifically commenced, the sick inmates were removed to the temporary hospital of the *Vera Cruz*, and the *Punta*. Large sums were given and bequeathed by certain rich persons, for the purpose of building a new hospital, which would accommodate a quarter of a million of dollars was collected. By the way, of this sum one hundred and fifty thousand dollars were bequeathed by a maiden sister of Mr. Orvedo, of "diamond wedding" celebrity. The City Council then undertook the new business, and the foundations of a large building were laid, when the government ordered the work to be suspended, because it was in consequence of the want of a hospital. The City Council, however, again laid the matter up for consideration, and are now looking around for a convenient site, which I fear it will be difficult to find.

In order that you may understand the government's objection, you must know that no stone or brick building is allowed within a radius of, I think, ten hundred yards from the city walls, and that space is called the "military zone."

A day or two since the Captain General and Civil Governor of Havana, attended by a crowd of engineers and officers, went to the site of the new aqueduct, and a visit which I hope may prove beneficial and tend to hurry on that much needed work to completion.

It is a pity that I cannot send you a letter, for even if I had more time to communicate the time as my disposal is too short.

The steamer *Croft* has not yet arrived.

The Press Despatch.

HAVANA, Jan. 28, 1865.

On the 26th we received the news that the French frigate *Entrepreneur*, sixty guns, had got ashore on Cayo Blanco, about sixty miles west of Havana. The French transport *Darien* immediately left to assist in getting her off. Yesterday a report spread that the frigate had been saved, but I could trace it to no reliable source.

We have no other news of importance, save that the Spanish mail steamer (the non-arrival of which had caused so much anxiety) got on fire, and was obliged to put into Porto Rico. I learn that no lives were lost. A doctor, Richard W. Laidman, head, recovered.

On the 25th the English frigate *Evelyn*, two hundred and eighty-four tons, arrived, one day from Nassau, and on the 27th, the English frigate *Wren*, from Nassau, arrived. It is reported that there are a number of steamers preparing for privateers, all to be named after the names of the English monarchs, and to be sent to the West Indies. The names of the steamers are: the *Lark* and the *Wren*. Three were reported at St. Thomas, and we hear of several others at Nassau. The steamer *Arctica* is clearing to-day at the Custom House, and will be sent to the West Indies. The steamer *Arctica* is clearing to-day at the Custom House, and will be sent to the West Indies.

PETROLEUM.

OPENING OF A NEW STOCK EXCHANGE—ADDRESS BY MR. E. H. GALLAGHER, HON. R. M. DAVIS, OF NEW YORK, AND MR. H. W. WASHINGTON, OF NEW YORK.

At one o'clock yesterday afternoon the new Public Petroleum Stock Exchange was formally opened, and will be dedicated hereafter to the oil interest. A large and highly respectable audience was present, a majority of whom are well known merchants and capitalists who are deeply interested in the petroleum business. The Exchange is located at the corner of Broadway and Reister street, and the hall is large and commodious, having in the center a raised platform, somewhat similar to that used by the Board of Brokers, from which the business will be transacted.

MR. R. M. GALLAGHER, of the Fifth Avenue Gold Exchange, opened the proceedings in a few brief remarks. He called the attention of the meeting to the rapid development of this new and apparently inexhaustible source of wealth to the country, and the necessity of furnishing such facilities as were contemplated by the new institution. He then proceeded to inaugurate the business of the Exchange, and to inaugurate the business of the Exchange, and to inaugurate the business of the Exchange.

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